GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1731
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Drinking Water at Stations
Baheria Shri Subhash Chandra;Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding contaminated and inadequate supply of drinking water at the Railway stations across the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and zone-wise;

(c) the number of Water Vending Machines (WVMs) installed at Railway stations in the country so far along with the estimated cost of installation of such WVMs, zone-wise;

(d) whether there is any delay in installation of WVMs at the Railway stations and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, zone-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate safe drinking water at affordable rates to passengers at the Railway stations in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1731 BY SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA AND SHRI P. KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.05.2016 REGARDING DRINKING WATER AT STATIONS.

(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A number of complaints regarding drinking water are received which include inadequate supply and contamination. Such complaints have been received at various levels of Railway administration viz. Station, Division, Zone and Railway Board's level, consolidated list of which is not maintained separately. These are examined and actions as found feasible and viable, are taken.

(c) Zone-wise details of number of Water Vending Machines (WVMs) installed over various Railway Stations in the country is Appended. The estimated cost of each machine is 6 lakh (Approx) which is borne by the concerned licensees.

(d) Yes, Madam. The main reasons for delay in installation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Stations are that this being a huge capital intensive project, licensees are finding it difficult to arrange funds and also the licensees took time to develop suitable prototype of Water Vending Machines, as per guidelines issued in this regard.

(e) With a view to augment availability of purified drinking water to passengers at affordable rates conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been entrusted the task of providing Water Vending Machines (WVMs) at Stations. Water Vending Machines based on Reverse Osmosis System (RO) or superior technology are being installed to provide water at affordable rates. IRCTC has already awarded licenses for installation of 1600 nos. of Water Vending Machines over Indian Railways.

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